Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies

Listed in alphabetical order by organization

Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, Protecting and enhancing the national marine phytoplankton Culture Collection, West Boothbay Harbor, Maine – $600,000
To provide equipment and operating capability to enhance the national Culture Collection for Marine Phytoplankton as part of the new Bigelow Laboratory development at the East Boothbay campus. This is the designated national center for preserving marine phytoplankton and providing strains for scientific research. This is the most complete collection worldwide of marine phytoplankton. These organisms are the critical base for the entire marine food web and ecosystem. The funding would provide for upgrades to the storage facilities to permit the center also to house viruses and bacteria, which require colder storage temperatures.

Good Will-Hinckley, Averill Academy Alternative School for At-Risk Youth, Hinckley, Maine – $600,000
To continue to serve Maine's most vulnerable youth in an alternative classroom setting, preparing them for post-secondary education and the workforce by accepting 40 new students (20 9th graders; 20 10th graders) identified as "at-risk of dropping out" from schools in nearby communities to begin a structured high school program.

Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Community-Based Acoustic Research, Portland, Maine – $850,000
To purchase acoustic survey equipment to outfit fishing vessels and to conduct critically-needed herring surveys in coastal Maine waters. Over the past three years, bait shortages have caused fresh herring bait prices to soar. Acoustic surveys in coastal Gulf of Maine waters are essential to provide the critical information necessary to manage the Atlantic herring resource. Currently there are no surveys in coastal Maine waters.

Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Support for fishing industry sectors along the coast of Maine, Portland, Maine – $600,000
To improve information on poorly studied fish stocks, determine the distribution of underutilized species, and develop systems to increase industry profitability and the viability of sectors.

Maine Department of Marine Resources, Collaborative Shellfish Research, Augusta, Maine – $1,500,000
To continue data collection and monitoring of economically critical shellfish stocks which will provide information to managers about the health and sustainability of the resource. Additionally, the project will employ lobstermen by using their vessels as scientific platforms and their knowledge of local waters and fishing grounds.

Maine Department of Marine Resources, East Coast Herring Sampling and Stock Assessment, Augusta, Maine – $300,000
To provide data critical to effective management of this important resource. Funding would improve the government's ability to adequately monitor and assess the herring resource. Greater monitoring and assessment would assist in determining optimum yield, minimizing bycatch of other species, and avoid financial impacts from market shortages. In particular, the new stock

assessment model enabled through this funding will improve management and potentially alleviate a recurring bait shortage.

Maine Department of Marine Resources, Endangered Whale Risk Assessment, Augusta, Maine – $1,000,000
To gather baseline data on the distribution and density of both endangered whales and fixed fishing gear in Maine coastal waters. This will enhance the economic viability of Maine's fishing industry by targeting only high risk areas for regulation, while at the same time, provide the most conservation benefit to endangered whales.

Maine Department of Marine Resources, Groundfish Research, Augusta, Maine – $475,000
To collect critical information on Gulf of Maine groundfish stocks. Funds will be used to obtain the data necessary for sound fisheries management and restoration of a formerly valuable part of the Maine economy.

Maine Department of Marine Resources, Lamoine Laboratory Expansion and Red Tide Monitoring, Augusta, Maine – $2,000,000
To expand DMR's eastern Public Health Laboratory and to continue the expanded Red Tide sampling program initiated with federal disaster funds received following the devastating 2005 Red Tide season. This project would provide greater protection to public health by insuring that shellfish are safe for human consumption. Continuation of the enhanced monitoring program will keep more working throughout Red Tide Events by enabling us to implement public health closures at a finer scale, thereby keeping some areas open that would otherwise be closed for lack of data.

Maine Department of Marine Resources, Maine Groundfish Permit Banking Program, Augusta, Maine – $5,000,000
This program will mitigate the adverse impacts of consolidation by preserving and restoring access to Maine fishermen and their communities throughout Maine. Funds will also be used to upgrade/purchase software to help monitor and track associated fishing opportunities.

Maine Department of Marine Resources, Maine New Hampshire Inshore Trawl Survey Augusta, Maine – $400,000
The National Marine Fisheries Service trawl survey is not able to survey the shallower inshore waters of the Gulf of Maine because of the extremely rough topography and abundance of lobster gear. The Maine/New Hampshire Inshore Trawl Survey fills this information gap by providing a multi species assessment to promote the efficient management of the Gulf of Maine's fishing industries. Filling this information gap is a priority for both state and federal resource managers and fishermen, addressing issues like fish stock recovery and fishery management measures.

Maine Department of Marine Resources, Meeting Sustainability Requirements for River Herring, Augusta, Maine – $580,000
To provide data necessary to meet sustainability requirements established by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the lack of which may result in the closure of Maine's river herring fisheries. Greater monitoring and assessment will help improve overall management, ensure the river-specific sustainability now required by law, determine bycatch impacts from

other fisheries, and avoid the job losses resulting from closures and resultant financial impacts from market shortages.

Penobscot East Resource Center, Northern Gulf of Maine Groundfish Sentinel Fishery, Stonington, Maine – $273,000
To employ fishermen to research the recovery of a once productive and now chronically depleted groundfish fishery between the Penobscot Bay Islands and Canada.

Somerset County, Maine, Communications Equipment Upgrade, Somerset County, Maine – $550,000
At present, law enforcement and others cannot communicate with one another or ambulances, HAZMAT, and EMA officials by cell phone or radio in certain areas throughout the Route 201 Corridor of Somerset County, Maine. Funds would be used to improve communication technology and to help construct new communication towers.

University of Maine, Abrupt Climate Change, Orono, Maine – $1,000,000
To better understand abrupt climate change, NOAA should establish a new initiative that will focus on the recovery, analysis, and interpretation of paleoclimate archives (glacial deposits and ice cores) that describe the role of the atmosphere in abrupt climate change.

University of Southern Maine, Gateway to Science, Portland, Maine – $865,000
To modernize and upgrade the multimedia facility at USM for community science education, K-12 outreach, and incorporation of immersive, visually-enhanced STEM learning experiences into higher education at USM.

<u>National Priorities:</u>

National Marine Fisheries Service, Atlantic Salmon, Protected Species Research and Management – $8.56 million.
I urge you to provide the President's requested level of $8.56 million for the Atlantic Salmon Protected Species Research and Management. Improved research and better management can help restore Atlantic salmon throughout the Gulf of Maine and Maine's rivers.

National Marine Fisheries Service, Fisheries Research and Management – at least $463.6 million.
I urge you to provide the President's requested level of $463.6 million for the Fisheries Research and Management in the National Marine Fisheries Service, including at least $51.7 million for expansion of annual stock assessments and at least $21.4 million for fisheries statistics. Expanded funding for fisheries research, particularly in the area of stock assessment and statistics, will provide fisheries managers with superior information and allowing for better utilization of our nation's fisheries.

NOAA's Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) – $33.5 million.
IOOS provides vital data for improving understanding, prediction, forecasting, and use of our ocean resources. It provides real time data for mariners to plan for conditions in the ocean and maintains long-term data sets for researchers to use for improving our understanding of ocean

ecosystems. I urge you provide at least $33.5 million for IOOS, the same level provided by FY 2010 appropriations.

NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS), Operations – $23.5 million, Construction $6.9 million.
NERRS is a network of protected areas established for long-term research, education and stewardship. One of these areas is located in Wells, ME. I urge you to provide at least level funding with FY 2010 levels of $23.5 million for operations and $6.9 million for construction for NERRS.

NOAA's Sea Grant program – at least $62 million.
Sea Grant provides important services to the nation's coastal states by supporting federal/state partnerships to address local challenges for coastal resource managers, such as invasive species management, shoreline erosion, and events such as red tide poisoning shellfish. Experts estimate that for every $1 invested in Sea Grant by the federal government, approximately $20 is generated for coastal communities. I urge you to continue to leverage this federal investment and provide at least the President's requested level of $62 million for Sea Grant.

NSF's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) – $154 million. EPSCoR is a research and development funding mechanism that sets aside a small percentage of federal research and development dollars for states that historically receive less research and development funding. Maine was one of the eight original states in the program. The program has expanded to 25 states, but the amount of funding set aside in the program has not kept pace with this expansion. Thus, I urge to include the President's requested level of $154 for EPSCoR in this year's appropriations for the National Science Foundation.